

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

*Sub
B'*
2. (amended) A birnavirus mutant according to claim 1,
[characterised in that] wherein the mutation is a substitution.

*b
37 CFR
1,663*
3. (amended) ~~A birnavirus~~ mutant according to claim 1,
[characterised in that] wherein the mutation is an insertion of a
heterologous nucleic acid sequence.

*A
DRAFT
DRAFT*
4. (amended) A birnavirus mutant according to claim 3,
[characterised in that] wherein the heterologous nucleic acid
sequence encodes a polypeptide and the heterologous nucleic acid
sequence is under the control of an expression control sequence
regulating the expression of the sequence in a cell infected with
the virus mutant.

*B
37 CFR
1,663*
5. (amended) A birnavirus mutant according to [claims 1-4],
characterised in that ~~claim 1~~, wherein the birnavirus is
infectious bursal disease virus (IBDV).

*The IBDV
B
37 CFR
1,663*
6. (amended) ~~A birnavirus~~ mutant according to claim 6,
[characterised in that] wherein the mutation is in the genome of
a virulent field virus.

*B
The IBDV*
7. (amended) ~~A birnavirus~~ mutant according to claim 7,
[characterised in that] wherein the mutation is in the genome of
a vaccine strain[, preferably in vaccine strain D78].

*B
The IBDV*
8. (amended) ~~A birnavirus~~ mutant according to [claims 6-7],
characterised in that ~~claim 6~~, wherein the mutant has a mutated
start codon and three stop codons in the 5'-end of the VP5 gene
as shown in SEQ ID NO:7.

the IBDV

B
37 CCR 1,663
9. (amended) A ~~birnavirus~~ according to [claims 8-8,
characterised in that] claim 8, wherein the IBDV expresses a
chimeric VP2 protein comprising virus neutralizing epitopes of
different antigenic IBDV types.

Sub B2
10. (amended) A vaccine against a birnavirus infection in
animals, [characterised in that it comprises] comprising a
birnavirus mutant according to any one of claims 1-9 and a
pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Please cancel claim 11 without prejudice or disclaimer of the
subject matter thereof.

Sub B3
12. (amended) A method [according to claim 11, characterised
in that the method comprises] for determining birnavirus
infection in an animal, comprising the steps of:

- (i) incubating a sample suspected of containing anti-
birnavirus antibodies[,] with VP5 antigen,
- (ii) allowing the formation of antibody-antigen complex,
and
- (iii) detecting the presence of the antibody-antigen
complex,

wherein the presence of the complex indicates a birnavirus
infection.

13. (amended) A diagnostic kit suitable for carrying out a
method according to [claims 11-12] claim 12, comprising VP5
antigen coated on a solid phase.

Please cancel claim 14 without prejudice or disclaimer of the
subject matter thereof.

Please add the following new claims 15 - 31.

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B4

-- 15. A birnavirus mutant according to claim 7, wherein the vaccine strain is D78. --

-- 16. A diagnostic test kit according to claim 13, further comprising an enzyme-conjugated antibody and substrate to said enzyme.

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B5

-- 17. A method for determining birnavirus infection in an animal, comprising:

- (i) incubating a sample suspected of containing VP5 with anti-birnavirus VP5 antibody;
- (ii) allowing the formation of antibody-antigen complex; and
- (iii) detecting the presence of antibody-antigen complex, wherein the presence of the complex indicates birnavirus infection. --

-- 18. A diagnostic test kit for carrying out a method according to claim 17, comprising a container having anti-
TBDV birnavirus VP5 antibody. --

-- 19. A diagnostic test kit according to claim 18, further comprising a second labelled antibody which will detect said complex. --

-- 20. A diagnostic test kit according to claim 18, wherein the antibody is labelled. --

-- 21. A diagnostic test kit according to claim 18, wherein the antibody is coated on a solid phase. --

-- 22. A birnavirus according to claim 2, wherein the birnavirus is *TBDV*. --

-- 23. A birnavirus according to claim 3, wherein the birnavirus is IBDV. --

Suh -- 24. A birnavirus according to claim 22, wherein the mutation is in the genome of a virulent field virus. --
B6

-- 25. A birnavirus according to claim 23, wherein the mutation is in the genome of a virulent field virus. --

AB -- 26. A birnavirus according to claim 22, wherein the mutation is in the genome of a vaccine strain. --

-- 27. A birnavirus according to claim 23, wherein the mutation is in the genome of a vaccine strain. --

DP
CR
31 12 13 -- 28. A birnavirus according to claim 26, wherein the vaccine strain is D78. --

DP
2 -- 29. A birnavirus according to claim 27, wherein the vaccine strain is D78. --

Suh
B7 -- 30. A birnavirus according to claim 6, wherein the IBDV expresses a chimeric VP2 protein comprising virus neutralizing epitopes of different antigenic IBDV types. --

DP
31 12 13 -- 31. A vaccine against a ~~birnavirus~~ infection in animals, comprising a ^a~~birnavirus~~ mutant according to any one of claims 24 - 30 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. --

REMARKS

Claims 2 - 10, 12 and 13 are amended, claims 11 and 14 canceled, and claims 15 - 31 are added, hereby. Claims 1 - 10, 12, 13 and 15 - 31 are presented for examination.